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# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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## THE UN SECRETARIAT UNDER U THANT

U Thant's appointment as interim UN secretary general by consensus in the Security Council and the unanimous endorsement of the General Assembly give him considerable latitude to act as the sole executive of the UN Secretariat. Thant, one of the first candidates suggested to succeed Dag Hammarskjold, had made it clear that the Burmese Government would not permit him to accept if there were any form of "veto or compulsory consultations with advisers" involved. He has since pledged himself to preserve the impartiality and effectiveness of the Secretariat.

Thant will act as secretary general until April 1963--the date on which Hammarskjold's second term would have expired. He has retained Ralph Bunche of the United States and Georgy Arkadyev of the USSR as under secretaries, and Narasimhan of India as chef de cabinet. He said that he would also invite a "limited number" of persons to act as "principal advisers on important...functions entrusted to the secretary general."

Thant will probably lean over backward in his efforts to be completely impartial. He is unlikely to exhibit the strong executive leadership frequently exercised by Hammarskjold, who sometimes went beyond a strict interpretation of the UN Charter. In addition to the active role he played in the Congo, Hammarskjold had set up--without a specific mandate from the UN and despite strong Soviet objections--a UN operation in Laos which included diplomatic as well as well as economic advisory func-

tions, and had appointed personal representatives who served to bolster Jordan in its dispute with the UAR.

Thant is more likely to insist on specific mandates and to seek more active participation of representatives of UN member-states in the conduct of UN operations in crisis situations. The implied commitment to consult with the under secretaries will also tend to deprive him of the opportunities Hammarskjold sometimes used to confront the USSR with a fait accompli.

Generally recognized as one of his country's ablest public servants, the 52-year-old Burman gained the respect of all political factions as Prime Minister U Nu's chief adviser in both domestic and foreign affairs. At the UN, where he has been Burma's permanent representative since 1957, Thant is highly regarded for his quiet and efficient promotion of Burmese objectives. A Buddhist of great personal integrity, Thant is also a hard worker.

Thant is in accord with Burma's neutralist objectives, but within this pattern he is broadly pro-Western in outlook and, according to the American Embassy in Rangoon, a strong anti-Communist. He vigorously defends the right of newly emerging nations to occupy a neutral position between East and West, and has been a persistent advocate of Communist China's admission to the UN.

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